

Wilson: "This will help Ohio and her citizens get back on their feet."

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) pledged to continue his work to ensure rural America gets its fair share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. House Democrats this morning unveiled the \$825 billion economic stimulus measure that will invest tens of billions of dollars in renewable energy and efficiency, as well as road and water infrastructure improvements. While this is just the first step in this process, Wilson is pleased that the first draft of the plan includes:

- \$6 billion to expand broadband internet access so businesses in rural and other underserved areas can link up to the global economy.
- \$6.2 billion to help low-income families reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes.
- \$1.5 billion to support \$3.8 billion in grants and loans to help communities fund drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.
- \$20 billion to jumpstart efforts to computerize health records to cut costs and reduce medical errors.
- \$4.2 billion to help communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed or vacant properties in order to create more affordable housing and reduce neighborhood blight.
- \$1 billion to help low income families pay for home heating and cooling at a time of rising energy costs.
- \$87 billion to increase the share of Medicaid costs the federal government reimburses states.

"I'm excited by the amount of consideration that's been given to rural areas," Wilson said. "I truly believe the investment in broadband and infrastructure projects will help spur job creation, which is what regions like ours so desperately need. I'm also pleased that Medicaid funding to states is included. States like Ohio have been hit very hard by this economic recession and this will help Ohio and her citizens get back on their feet."